



News from the United Mine Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC

**UMWA**

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UMWA supports AT&T, T-Mobile merger

[TRIANGLE, VA] United Mine Workers of America International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

“The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will bring benefits to the American consumer for years to come. That will be especially true in the rural areas of our nation where so many UMWA members live and work.

“The merger will mean the expansion of next-generation wireless service to more than 97 percent of Americans, meaning that 55 million more people will have service than currently do. This will mean the end of the ‘digital divide’ for many underserved people who have not had access to necessary and secure wireless services.

“I especially want to point out that expanding and upgrading service into rural America will be of great benefit to many of our members and the communities where they live. It will also mean many needed, good-paying jobs for those communities as the network is expanded and upgraded.

“This merger will also mean that thousands of T-Mobile workers will have an opportunity to choose the advantages of union membership. We in the UMWA believe that all workers should be able to enjoy the benefits collective bargaining brings to working families – fair wages, decent benefits, a voice at work and respect on the job.

“It’s long past time for T-Mobile workers to have a chance to win these improvements in their lives through union representation by our brothers and sisters in the Communications Workers of America. As it has in past mergers, AT&T is taking the responsible path and maintaining a neutral position with respect to efforts by its workers to organize a union.

“The UMWA applauds AT&T for its stance in this regard, and we urge T-Mobile workers to take advantage of this opportunity to help provide a more secure future for themselves

and their families.”